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QUESTION OF THE VIOLATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS IN ANY PART OF THE WORLD WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO COLONIAL AND OTHER DEPENDENT COUNTRIES AND TERRITORIES, INCLUDING: QUESTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN CYPRUS

Letter dated 4 March 1993 from the Chargé d'affairs, a.i. of Turkey to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the Chairman of the Commission on Human Rights

I have the honour to enclose herewith a letter dated 3 March 1993, addressed to you by H.E. Kenan ATAKOL, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Defence of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, with regard to the question of human rights in Cyprus.

I should be grateful to you if my letter and its enclosure were circulated as a document of the Commission on Human Rights under agenda item 12.

(Signed) Bilge CANKOREL
Deputy Permanent Representative

GE.93-11974 (E)

I have the honour to refer to the statement made by the Greek Cypriot representative at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on Human Rights, under agenda item 12, and to respond to his unfounded allegations concerning "violation of human rights of Greek Cypriots" in Cyprus.

The Greek Cypriot representative has repeated the well-known Greek Cypriot allegation that the Cyprus problem started in 1974 with the so-called "invasion" of the part of the island by Turkey, in an attempt to gloss over the historical responsibility of his administration in the creation of the problem back in 1963.

The question of Cyprus did not arise in 1974 as a result of the legitimate intervention of Turkey, but arose as a result of the December 1963 armed aggression by the Greek Cypriots against the Turkish Cypriots throughout the island. The onslaught was carried out in accordance with a premeditated plan (Akritas plan) which aimed at achieving Enosis (annexation of the island to Greece) by forcing the Turkish Cypriot component of the binational partnership republic out of the organs of the State and wiping out all resistance by military means with the help of Greece. As a result of this attempted takeover of the island's administration, the foundation and the legitimacy of the bicommunal government which rested on the concept of power-sharing between the two equal peoples, as separate political entities, had been destroyed by the Greek Cypriots in defiance of international treaties and the rule of law. The Turkish Cypriots resisted all attempts by the Greek Cypriots to Hellenize the island and to extend their illegal writ over the Turkish Cypriots.

On this point, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, the newly elected Greek Cypriot leader who has published his memoirs (My Deposition, Volume 3, page 105) has this to say:

> "Just as the Greek Cypriot preoccupation was that Cyprus should be a Greek Cypriot State, with a protected Turkish Cypriot minority, the Turkish preoccupation was to defeat any such effort and to maintain the partnership concept, which in their opinion the Zurich Agreements created between the two communities. The conflict, therefore, was a conflict of principle and for that principle both sides were prepared to go on arguing and even, if need be, to fight rather than compromise."

During 1963-1974, hundreds of Turkish Cypriots were killed by armed Greek Cypriot paramilitaries and a quarter of the Turkish Cypriot population (some 30,000 people) rendered homeless. Hundreds more were abducted or subjected to enforced disappearance, never to be seen or heard of again. Ever since the destruction of the binational partnership in 1963, the Greek Cypriot administration has been relentless in its attempt to subjugate the Turkish Cypriots by force of arms and by means of systematic oppression and discrimination. There is ample graphic evidence of a genocidal campaign of ethnic cleansing perpetrated by the Greek Cypriots during 1963-1974. During this period, even the basic human rights and freedoms of the Turkish Cypriots were violated by the Greek Cypriot administration which imposed severe restrictions on the Turkish Cypriot enclaves and curtailed all efforts to revive the Turkish Cypriot economy by waging a war of attrition against them.

This episode of untold cruelty and violence in Cyprus continued until 1974. On 15 July 1974, Greece staged a bloody coup d'etat on the island with the aim of achieving Enosis through its invasion which had already taken place with the clandestine importation of thousands of troops from Greece.

The Turkish intervention which followed the Greek coup was inevitable in the face of the open aggression against Cyprus and the threat posed against the security of the Turkish Cypriots by Greek and Greek Cypriot forces which were poised to overrun Turkish Cypriot areas in a matter of days and carry out their extermination plans. The Greek invasion of Cyprus was thwarted by the timely intervention of Turkey, which was in accord with the 1960 Treaty of Guarantee.

As a result of Turkey's intervention in Cyprus, peace and tranquillity were brought to the island after a decade of grievous suffering inflicted upon the Turkish Cypriot people by the Greek Cypriots in their ruthless attempt to unite Cyprus with Greece.

The practical consequence of the events of 1963-1974 has been the emergence of parallel administrative, judicial and legislative organs for each of the two peoples. The Turkish Cypriot people have formed a democratic and secular State, with a plural party system based on free elections, social justice and the rule of law, with its citizens enjoying all human rights and liberties. In spite of this, however, in the international field the Turkish Cypriots are deprived of the full exercise of basic rights and interests. Their right to freely travel abroad, to trade, to communicate, to compete in sports or to take part in cultural activities, not to mention their right to be represented at or being heard in all international forums, are all being denied to them. It is noteworthy, in this context, that the Greek Cypriot side has, for the past 29 years, been usurping foreign aid given to Cyprus as a whole and utilizing it exclusively for the benefit of the Greek Cypriot community.

As explained above, it is the Greek Cypriot side which has violated the rule of law and all basic rights and freedoms of the Turkish Cypriots in the past, and to a great extent, continues to do so even today. The Greek Cypriots, therefore, are in no position to complain about human rights issues in Cyprus. The responsibility for the murder of hundreds of defenceless Turkish Cypriots, the destruction of the binational partnership State by force of arms and the division of Cyprus rests solely with the Greek Cypriot leadership.

The Greek Cypriot leadership should be urged to refrain from all hostile activities that violate the basic human rights of the Turkish Cypriot people. The Greek Cypriots should learn to respect the sovereign rights of the Turkish Cypriots and treat them as equals and as neighbours destined to coexist side by side on the island of Cyprus.

I, therefore, wish to reiterate our appeal to the Commission on Human Rights to address, in its proper context, the question of human rights violations in Cyprus which continue to affect adversely the daily lives of Turkish Cypriots and to impress upon the Greek Cypriot administration the need to urgently put an end to all obstructionist and discriminatory practices which undermind the rule of law, as well as peace and stability on the island.

Dr. KENAN ATAKOL